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Application No.: 09/858,477

Docket No.: H6810.0021/P021

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 39 and 40 have been amended. Non-elected claims 19-38 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1-18, 39 and 40 remain in the application. Please note that the amended claims may be broader in scope, in certain respects, than the original claims. For example, claims 1-18 and 39 now contain the phrase "group control ID," rather than "group control number." The former appeared in the original version of claim 40. In addition, the claims no longer recite the step of "analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process." Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claims 1-18, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. With respect to the first concern raised in the Office Action, the phrase "analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process" has been deleted from the claims, as noted above. With respect to the second concern, the claims have been clarified to indicate that the grouping of the controlled substances is "with respect to . . . reporting requirements." Claims 2, 8, 14 and 39 have been further clarified by amendment. The claims as amended are believed to in full compliance with § 112.

Claims 1-8, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sturgeon. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The present invention relates to a method in which the same group control ID (205, Fig. 4) is given to a specified compound and the substances belonging to the specified compound for purposes of reporting the total discharged amount of chemical substances generally called "xxxx compound" specified in the applicable law or regulation.

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Thus, independent claim 1 has been amended to provide that "controlled substances of the same group with respect to reporting requirements are categorized by a common group control ID." This is an important aspect of the claimed invention. Sturgeon fails to disclose or suggest the recited limitation in combination with the other step limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, should be allowable over Sturgeon.

Claims 2-8, 39 and 40, as amended, should be allowable for reasons similar to those given above in connection with claim 1, and there are other reasons why the pending claims should be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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